

Chapter Seven

Heritage Trees

*Introduction to Heritage Tree Programs
City of Carlsbad Heritage Tree Study*



**City of Carlsbad
Community Forest Management Plan**

Chapter 7 - Heritage Trees

"...community forests reveal how well they are managed by the number and condition of old trees."

As mentioned in Chapter 1, mature trees are said to provide the most benefit due to their large canopies, aesthetic contributions, and other measurable contributions. City Community forests reveal how well they are managed by the number and condition of old trees. Old trees typically make up the large majority of City Heritage Tree Programs. Heritage trees are links to the past that are often unique, large, or special to the Community in some other way. Benefits of heritage trees include their diversity of age and species composition, prominence as visual land marks, wildlife habitat niches, sensitivity as indicators of environmental problems, and influence on property values. Typically, heritage trees are designated as such based on their notable historic interest or unusual species or size. The City of Carlsbad Heritage Tree Program is discussed briefly in the Municipal Code, *Title 11, Chapter 11.12, Section 11.12.140*.



Heritage tree programs include interpretive and educational materials, a tree inventory, a management plan to provide best management practices, protection ordinances, and removal and planting procedures and policies.

A heritage tree program has been established within the City. The project includes two phases. Phase I is underway and includes the identification of the 100 most significant trees within the STAD. These trees are located in the older "Village" part of Carlsbad. Phase II will include identifying significant trees in the remaining parts of the City. It is expected that there will be fewer trees identified as Heritage trees throughout the more recently established portions of the City.

The City's Historic Preservation Commission is responsible for and provides oversight for the Heritage Tree Study. A consultant has been retained to currently identify, inventory, and map trees in the older Village Area of Carlsbad that meet the City's criteria for heritage trees. This is being accomplished by walking the study area street by street and alley by alley to review all City trees in public areas and private trees that can be readily seen from a public sidewalk or thoroughfare.

The consultant performing the study has identified over 165 potential candidates representing 94 species. These will receive further review and research such as comparing the trees to historical photos and newspaper articles to determine the final recommended list of heritage trees.

A recommended management plan will also be developed based on current best management practices to be utilized in maintaining the City owned trees. The information should also be provided to the private property owners as a guide to assist them in managing their privately owned trees. The intent is to have healthy trees that can live successfully for many years before they need to be removed and replaced. When completed, this information will be provided to the City for review and adoption and incorporated in the CFMP. Recommendations will also be made on how additional heritage trees can be added to the list in the future.